

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendments

Applicant's amendments/arguments, see remarks and amendments to claims, filed 2/12/2010, with respect to the pending claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of all pending claims has been withdrawn, thus this application is in condition for allowance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Pieprz on 6/4/2010.

Please amend the application as follows:

Claims 5-8, 10-12, 16-19, and 26-29 should be amended to the claim language as shown below.

These amended claims will **replace** claims 5-8, 16-19, and 26-29 as filed on 2/12/2010:

In claim 5, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to --A[[n]] non-transitory** information recording medium storing data which can be accessed from an accessing device, comprising:

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a storage device ~~operable~~ configured to store data and having plural areas respectively managed by independent file systems;

an area information storage ~~operable~~ configured to store information about size and position of each area of the storage device;

a host interface ~~operable~~ configured to receive a command for setting a size of each area of the storage device from the accessing device;

an area size setter ~~operable~~ configured to set size and position of each area of the storage device based on a predetermined setting condition according to the command received from the accessing device; and

an authentication controller ~~operable~~ configured to authenticate the accessing device, wherein the storage device has an authentication area which allows access from the accessing device only when authentication by the authentication controller is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access from the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication by the authentication controller,

wherein the non-authentication area and authentication area individually have plural areas, and each area in the non-authentication area has a corresponding area in the authentication area,

wherein the predetermined setting condition comprises a ratio of a size of an area included in the non-authentication area to the size of the corresponding area included in the authentication area,

wherein the host interface receives the size of one area in the non-authentication area or authentication area from the accessing device, and

wherein the area size setter determines the size of each area in the non-authentication area and authentication area on the basis of the received size of one area and the ratio, and sets the information to be stored in the area information storage on the basis of the received size and determined size.--

In claim 6, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --A[[n]] non-transitory information recording medium storing data which can be accessed from an accessing device, comprising:

a storage device ~~operable~~ configured to store data and having plural areas respectively managed by independent file systems;

an area information storage ~~operable~~ configured to store information about size and position of each area of the storage device;

a host interface ~~operable~~ configured to receive a command for setting a size of each area of the storage device from the accessing device;

an area size setter ~~operable~~ configured to set size and position of each area of the storage device based on a predetermined setting condition according to the command received from the accessing device; and

an authentication controller ~~operable~~ configured to authenticate the accessing device, wherein the storage device has an authentication area which allows access from the accessing device only when authentication by the authentication controller is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access from the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication by the authentication controller,

wherein the non-authentication area and authentication area individually have plural areas, and each area in the non-authentication area has a corresponding area in the authentication area,

wherein the predetermined setting condition comprises a ratio of a size of an area included in the non-authentication area to a size of the corresponding area included in the authentication area,

wherein the host interface receives the size of each area in the non-authentication area or the authentication area from the accessing device, and

wherein the area size setter determines the size of each area in the non-authentication area and the authentication area on the basis of the received size of each area and the ratio, and sets the information to be stored in the area information storage on the basis of the received size and determined size.--

In claim 7, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --A[[n]] non-transitory information recording medium storing data which can be accessed from an accessing device, comprising:

a storage device ~~operable~~ configured to store data and having plural areas respectively managed by independent file systems;

an area information storage ~~operable~~ configured to store information about size and position of each area of the storage device;

a host interface ~~operable~~ configured to receive a command for setting a size of each area of the storage device from the accessing device;

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an area size setter ~~operable~~ configured to set size and position of each area of the storage device based on a predetermined setting condition according to the command received from the accessing device; and

an authentication controller ~~operable~~ configured to authenticate the accessing device, wherein the storage device has an authentication area which allows access from the accessing device only when authentication by the authentication controller is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access from the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication by the authentication controller,

wherein the non-authentication area and authentication area individually have plural areas, and each area in the non-authentication area has a corresponding area in the authentication area,

wherein the predetermined setting condition comprises a composition ratio of each area in the non-authentication area or the authentication area,

wherein the host interface receives sizes of respective areas in one of the non-authentication area and the authentication area from the accessing device, and

wherein the area size setter calculates the composition ratio from the received sizes of respective areas, determines sizes of respective areas in an other of the non-authentication area and the authentication area on the basis of the calculated composition ratio, and sets the information to be stored in the area information storage according to the received sizes and determined sizes.--

In claim 8, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --A[[n]] non-transitory information recording medium storing data which can be accessed from an accessing device, comprising:

a storage device ~~operable~~ configured to store data and having plural areas respectively managed by independent file systems;

an area information storage ~~operable~~ configured to store information about size and position of each area of the storage device;

a host interface ~~operable~~ configured to receive a command for setting a size of each area of the storage device from the accessing device;

an area size setter ~~operable~~ configured to set a size and a position of each area of the storage device based on a predetermined setting condition according to the command received from the accessing device; and

an authentication controller ~~operable~~ configured to authenticate the accessing device, wherein the storage device has an authentication area which allows access from the accessing device only when authentication by the authentication controller is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access from the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication by the authentication controller,

wherein the non-authentication area and authentication area individually have plural areas, and each area in the non-authentication area has a corresponding area in the authentication area,

wherein the area information storage stores plural combinations of sizes of areas included in the non-authentication area and the authentication area,

wherein the host interface receives $[[a]]$ specifying information indicating one combination, from the accessing device, and

wherein the area size setter selects the one combination from the plural combinations stored in the area information storage according to the received specifying information, and sets the size of each area in the non-authentication area and authentication area according to the selected combination.--

In claim 10, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --The non-transitory information recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the area size setter allows only a discrete value for the size received from the accessing device.--

In claim 11, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --The non-transitory information recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the area size setter sets the size of each area of the storage device to be larger than a total size of inaccessible blocks, which is calculated by an entire size or each area size of the storage device and a rate of accessible blocks.--

In claim 12, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --The non-transitory information recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the size of m areas included in the authentication area, and the size of n areas included in the non-authentication area (m and n are integers of 0 or more, $m+n \geq 2$) are fixed size.--

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In claim 16, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An accessing device for writing and reading data to and from an information recording medium ~~which stores~~ storing data and ~~has plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems, the information recording medium~~ having an authentication area which allows access only when authentication is successful and a non-authentication area which allows access regardless of a result of the authentication, the non-authentication area and authentication area respectively having plural areas, ~~the information recording medium further storing information about a ratio of a size of an area included in the non-authentication area to a size of a corresponding area included in the authentication area, as the setting condition to set each size of the plural areas,~~ the accessing device comprising:

a slot ~~operable~~ configured to load the information recording medium, ~~the information recording medium having plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems and further storing information about a ratio of a size of an area included in the non-authentication area to a size of a corresponding area included in the authentication area, as the setting condition to set each size of the plural areas; and~~

a file system controller ~~operable~~ configured to control the file systems established on the information recording medium loaded in the slot,

wherein the file system controller transmits a command for requesting area size setting to the information recording medium to set a size of each area in the information recording medium, and specifies the size of area in the information recording medium, and, in order to set the size of each area of the information recording medium, the file system controller transmits a size of one area in either one of the non-authentication area and the authentication area, to the

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information recording medium.--

In claim 17, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An accessing device for writing and reading data to and from an information recording medium which stores data ~~and has plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems~~, the information recording medium having an authentication area which allows access only when authentication is successful and a non-authentication area which allows access regardless of a result of the authentication, the non-authentication area and authentication area respectively having plural areas, ~~the information recording medium further stores information about a ratio of a size of an area included in the non-authentication area to a size of a corresponding area included in the authentication area, as a setting condition to set each size of the plural areas in the information recording medium~~, the accessing device comprising:

a slot ~~operable~~ configured to load the information recording medium, the information recording medium has plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems and further stores information about a ratio of a size of an area included in the non-authentication area to a size of a corresponding area included in the authentication area, as a setting condition to set each size of the plural areas in the information recording medium; and

a file system controller ~~operable~~ configured to control the file systems established on the information recording medium loaded in the slot,

wherein the file system controller transmits a command for requesting area size setting to the information recording medium to set the size of each area in the information recording medium, and, in order to set the size of each area of the information recording medium, the file

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system controller transmits the size of each area in either one of the non-authentication area and authentication area, to the information recording medium.--

In claim 18, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An accessing device for writing and reading data to and from an information recording medium ~~which stores~~ storing data and has plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems, the information recording medium having an authentication area which allows access only when authentication is successful and a non-authentication area which allows access regardless of a result of the authentication, the non-authentication area and authentication area respectively having plural areas, ~~the information recording medium setting each size of the plural areas in the information recording medium is by using a setting condition, which is a composition ratio of each area in the non-authentication area or the authentication area,~~ the accessing device comprising:

a slot ~~operable~~ configured to load the information recording medium, the information recording medium having plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems, and setting each size of the plural areas in the information recording medium by using a setting condition, which is a composition ratio of each area in the non-authentication area or the authentication area; and

a file system controller ~~operable~~ configured to control the file systems established on the information recording medium loaded in the slot,

wherein the file system controller transmits a command for requesting area size setting to the information recording medium to set the size of each area in the information recording

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medium, and, in order to set the size of each area of the information recording medium, the file system controller transmits the size of each area in either one of the non-authentication area and the authentication area, to the information recording medium.--

In claim 19, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An accessing device for writing and reading data to and from an information recording medium ~~which stores~~ storing data and has plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems, the ~~information recording medium~~ having an authentication area which allows access only when authentication is successful and a non-authentication area which allows access regardless of a result of the authentication, the non-authentication area and authentication area respectively having plural areas, ~~the information recording medium further storing plural combinations of sizes of areas in the non-authentication area and authentication area~~ the accessing device comprising:

a slot ~~operable~~ configured to load the information recording medium, the information recording medium having plural areas in which data is managed by independent file systems and further storing plural combinations of sizes of areas in the non-authentication area and authentication area; and

a file system controller ~~operable~~ configured to control the file systems established on the information recording medium loaded in the slot;

wherein the file system controller transmits a command for requesting area size setting to the information recording medium to set the size of each area in the information recording medium, and, in order to set the size of each area of the information recording medium, the file

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system controller transmits information for selecting one combination from the plural combinations stored in the information recording medium, to the information recording medium.--

In claim 26, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An area setting method of an information recording medium having plural areas storing data, ~~which are managed by mutually independent file systems, wherein~~ the information recording medium has an authentication area which allows access by an accessing device only when authentication is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access by the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication, and the non-authentication area and authentication area have plural areas respectively,

the area setting method comprising:

storing, in a data storage, a size of the non-authentication area of the information recording medium and a ratio of a size of the area in the non-authentication area to a size of the corresponding area in the authentication area, as a setting condition the plural areas of the information recording medium are managed by mutually independent file systems;

receiving, by a command receiver, from outside of the information recording medium, a command for requesting setting of a size of each area in the information recording medium, and a size of one area in one of the non-authentication area and the authentication area;

setting a size of each area in the information recording medium based on the setting condition, according to the received command, the setting comprising:

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determining a size of each area of the non-authentication area and the authentication area on the basis of the received size of one area and the ratio; and

setting the size of each area of the information recording medium on the basis of the received size and determined size.--

In claim 27, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An area setting method of an information recording medium having plural areas storing data, ~~which are managed by mutually independent file systems~~, wherein the information recording medium has an authentication area which allows access by the accessing device only when authentication is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access by the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication, and the non-authentication area and authentication area have plural areas respectively,

the area setting method comprising:

storing, in a data storage, a size of the non-authentication area of the information recording medium, and a ratio of a size of the area in the non-authentication area to a size of the corresponding area in the authentication area, as a setting condition, the information recording medium having plural areas storing data, which are managed by mutually independent file systems;

receiving, by a command receiver, from outside of the information recording medium, a command for requesting setting of an area size of the information recording medium and a size of each area in one of the non-authentication area and the authentication area;

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setting a size of each area in the information recording medium based on the setting condition, according to the received command, the setting comprising:

determining the size of each area of the non-authentication area and the authentication area on the basis of the received size of each area and the ratio; and

setting the size of each area of the information recording medium on the basis of the received size and determined size.--

In claim 28, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An area setting method of an information recording medium having plural areas storing data, ~~which are managed by mutually independent file systems~~, wherein the information recording medium has an authentication area which allows access by the accessing device only when authentication is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access by the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication, and the non-authentication area and authentication area have plural areas respectively,

the area setting method comprising:

receiving, in a data storage, from outside of the information recording medium, a command for requesting setting of an area size of the information recording medium and a size of each area in one of the non-authentication area and the authentication area, the plural areas of the information recording medium are managed by mutually independent file systems;

setting a size of each area in the information recording medium based on a predetermined setting condition, according to the received command, the setting comprising:

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calculating a composition ratio of each area of the non-authentication area or the authentication area based on the received size of each area;

determining a size of each area in an other of the non-authentication area and the authentication area on the basis of the calculated composition ratio, and

setting the size of each area of the information recording medium on the basis of the received size and determined size.

In claim 29, the amendment filed on 2/12/2010 **has been changed to** --An area setting method of an information recording medium having plural areas storing data, ~~which are managed by mutually independent file systems~~, wherein the information recording medium has an authentication area which allows access by the accessing device only when authentication is successful, and a non-authentication area which allows access by the accessing device regardless of a result of the authentication, and stores plural combinations of sizes of areas in the non-authentication area and the authentication area,

the area setting method comprising:

receiving, in a data storage, from outside of the information recording medium, a command for requesting setting of an area size of the information recording medium and specific information for selecting one combination from the plural combinations, the plural areas of the information recording medium are managed by mutually independent file systems,

setting a size of each area in the information recording medium based on a predetermined setting condition, according to the received command,

selecting the one combination from the stored plural combinations according to the received specific information, and

setting the size of each area in the information recording medium according to the selected combination.--

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-8, 10-12, 16-19, 21-22, 26-29, and 31-32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The above mentioned claims are allowable over the prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Arts) of record taken singly or in combination fail to anticipate or render obvious the specific added limitations, as recited in independent claims 5-8, 16-19, & 26-29 and subsequent dependent claims.

The CPA does not teach or suggest an area setting device/method including a storage device managed by (mutually) independent file systems; receiving a command from an accessing device to set the size and position of each area of the storage device based on a predetermined setting condition denoted in the command, where there are two main sections including an authentication and non-authentication section, the latter not requiring authentication of the accessing device to gain access. The CPA further fails to teach or suggest that one/each of the non-authentication portions containing plural areas has a corresponding area included in the authentication area, where the size of an area within the non-authentication or authentication area is set based on the received size and ratio. Finally, in other embodiments instead of a ratio, the size is determined based off a composition ratio or a selected combination of plural combinations stored in the area information storage.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nadia Khoshnoodi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3825. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

/Nadia Khoshnoodi/
Examiner, Art Unit 2437
6/4/2010

NK

/Emmanuel L. Moise/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2437